

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00  
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /075 W  
-----210014Z 121317 /61

P 201240Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5503  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB SF XA PFOR  
SUBJECT: BLACK TRADE UNION REACTIONS TO ICFTU BOYCOTT

REF JOHANNESBURT 088 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE INDIFFERENCE OF BLACK TRADE UNION LEADERS  
IN SOUTH AFRICA TOWARD THE CURRENT ICFTU BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN  
IS RELATED TO A GROWING SELF AWARENESS WHICH COULD BE  
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SYMPTOMATIC OF A TREND TOWARD A MORE DYNAMIC AND AGGRESSIVE BLACK  
LABOR MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL BLACK TRADE UNIONS HAVE  
PUBLICLY EXPRESSED INDIFFERENCE TOWARD THE CURRENT  
ICFTU BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED BY  
THE INTERNATIONAL BODY WHEN IT PLANNED ITS WEEK OF ACTION.

EMMA MASHININI, SECRETARY OF THE COMMERCIAL CATERING AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION, IS QUOTED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY THE STAR AS SAYING "NOBODY ABROAD THINKS WE ARE IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE CONSULTED ABOUT SOMETHING THAT AFFECTS OUR LIVES AS WELL. I DO NOT APPROVE OF ANYBODY DOING THINGS FOR ME WITHOUT FIRST CONSULTING ME...WE BLACKS MUST BE INITIALLY CONSULTED ON ANY PLANS THAT ARE AIMED FOR OUR SO CALLED UPLIFTMENT OR OTHERWISE."

3. DAN TAU, SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHEMICAL WORKERS' UNION SAID IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BOYCOTT" BECAUSE WE ARE NOT AFFILIATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL BODY AND DO NOT KNOW THE INSIDE STORY OF ITS PLANS AND VIEWS."

4. JANE HLONGWANE, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ENGINEERING AND THE WORKERS UNION SAID THAT THE FAILURE OF THE ICFTU TO "GET OUR FEELINGS MAKES US INDIFFERENT TO THIS WHOLE ISSUE... SOMETIMES ACTIONS THAT ARE INTENDED FOR OUR GOOD CAN HAVE A DANGEROUS BACKLASH BRINGING SUFFERING TO THOSE WHOM IT SHOULD HAVE BENEFITTED."

5. COMMENT: MASHININI, TAU AND HLONGWANE ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE URBAN TRAINING PROJECT (UTP), SEVERAL OF WHOSE MEMBERS WERE SERVED WITH THE BANNING ORDES TWO MONTHS AGO WHICH PROVOKED THE ICFTU CAMPAIGN AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (SEE REFTEL).. HLONGWANE, WHO HAS TAKEN OVER THE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE UTP, AND OTHER BLACK TRADE UNION LEADERS, HAVE EXPRESSED TO THE REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT FEELING THAT THE 30 BLACK TRADE UNIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA MUST EVENTUALLY FORM A NEW CONFEDERATION IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY DEFEND THE INTERESTS OF BLACK WORKERS. THE BANNING ORDERS WHICH WERE SERVED AGAINST WHITE LABOR LEADERS, WHO SUPPORTED THE BLACK UNIONS, AND THE AMBIVALENCE OF THE MULTI-RACIAL TRADE UNION COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (TUCSA) ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT CAUSES OF THIS GROWING SELF AWARENESS WHICH COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A MORE DYNAMIC AND AGGRESSIVE BLACK LABOR MOVEMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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